

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 NEW DE 12436 160300Z

66

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 /063 W

----- 114633

R 151241Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1204

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 12436

FOLLOWING MSG CALCUTTA 2196 DTD 15 SEP 75 RCVD NDELHI BEING
REPEATED YOU

QUOTE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: TROUBLE IN THE WEST BENGAL CPI

1. EARLY THIS MONTH THE CALCUTTA PRESS REPORTED THAT J.M. BISWAS,
CPI MP AND LEADER FROM PURULIA DISTRICT IN WESTERN CORNER OF WEST
BENGAL, HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM THE CPI. ONLY EXPLANATION GIVEN
WAS QTE ANTI-PARTY UNQTE ACTIVITIES.

2. BISWAS AND SEVERAL OTHER CPI FIGURES FROM PURULIA HELD A PRESS
CONFERENCE IN CALCUTTA THIS PAST WEEKEND WHICH IS REPORTED IN
PAPERS SEPTEMBER 15. STATESMAN REPORTS THAT PURULIA DISTRICT CPI
FIGURES TOLD PRESS THAT QTE NEARLY 200 OF THE 400 (CPI) MEMBERS
IN THE AREA HAD SEVERED THEIR CONNECTIONS WITH THE PARTY UNQTE.
AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA SAYS 169 CPI MEMBERS AND LEADERS FROM
PURULIA DISTRICT SENT IN THEIR RESIGNATIONS ON SEPTEMBER 14 AND
QTE MANY MORE FROM THE DISTRICT WILL FOLLOW SUIT UNQTE. PURULIA
DISSIDENTS REPORTEDLY CHARGED THAT CPI LEADERSHIP IS WEAK, PARTY
IS FACTION-RIDDEN, AND THAT PARTY'S LEADERSHIP IN WEST BENGAL IS
NOT SINCERE IN ITS PLEDGE TO IMPLEMENT MRS. GANDHI'S 21 POINT
PROGRAM BUT IN PROFESSING SUPPORT IS MOTIVATED BY DESIRE TO DIS-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NEW DE 12436 160300Z

RUPT CONGRESS. THEY PREDICTED THAT RESIGNATIONS FROM THE PARTY

WOULD FOLLOW FROM OTHER DISTRICTS, NAMELY COOCH BEHAR, MALDA, AND MURSHIDABAD. AMRITA'S REPORT SAYS THAT CPI MEMBERS AND LEADERS WHO RESIGNED HAD LITTLE DIFFERENCES WITH THE CPI'S POLITICAL LINE BUT WERE ANNOYED BY INTRA PARTY FIGHTING AND QTE MACHINATIONS OF SOME TOP BOSSES IN THE PARTY TO CONVERT IT INTO AN 'ANTI-SOVIET' CAMP UNQTE. THEY REPORTEDLY REFUSED TO SAY WHETHER THEY WOULD JOIN ANY OTHER PARTXM

3. ONE EXPLANATION FOR BISWAS' EXPULSION AND THE DEFECTIONS GIVEN US BY OUR LOCALS IS THAT BISWAS HAD ILLEGALLY AMASSED LARGE AMOUNT OF MONEY AND WAS FOUND OUT, BUT BEING A MAJOR FIGURE IN PURULIA WAS ABLE TO TAKE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THE CPI MEMBERSHIP IN THAT DISTRICT OUT OF THE PARTY WITH HIM. WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS TRUDMN THERE IS REPORTEDLY DISCONTENT IN THE PARTY OVER ALLEGED HIGH LIVING AND WEALTH OF SOME CPI LEADERS; BLANKET ENDORSEMENT THAT CPI HAS GIVEN THE EMERGENCY AND MRS. GANDHI'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY CAUSED UNREST WITHIN PARTY RANKS.

4. QUESTION WHICH IMMEDIATELY COMES TO MIND IS WHETHER WEST BENGAL CPI'S CURRENT TROUBLES ARE THE RESULT OF MACHINATIONS BY THE GOWB OR GOI. THERE IS A RUMOR MAKING THE ROUNDS HERE THAT MRS. GANDHI HAS WITHDRAWN HER SPECIAL PROTECTION FROM THE CPI. WE HAVE HEARD THAT WITHIN PAST TWO WEEKS HOMES OF FOUR SENIOR WEST BENGAL CPI FIGURES HAVE BEEN RAIDED BY THE TAX AUTHORITIES AND LARGE SUMS CONFISCATED: THOSE INVOLVED REPORTEDLY ARE KOLAN RAY, CPI MEMBER OF RAJYA SABHA, MOHAMMED ELIAS, CPI MP, ILA MITRA, CPI WEST BENGAL MLA, AND PRAVAT KAR, FORMER CPI MP AND LEADER OF BANK EMPLOYEES UNION. WORD OF THE RAID ON PRAVAT'S HOUSE WAS GIVEN TO ONE OF OUR LOCALS BY A SENIOR OFFICIAL OF THE WEST BENGAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION.

5. WHETHER IN CONNECTION WITH THESE DIFFICULTIES OR SIMPLY COINCIDENTALLY, CPI GENERAL SECRETARY RAJESWARA RAO HAS BEEN IN CALCUTTA THESE PAST DAYS. HE HELD PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 13 BUT APPARENTLY HAD NOTHING TO SAY ABOUT BISWAS' EXPULSION OR THE DEFECTIONS. HOWEVER, RAO WAS EXPANSIVE ABOUT THE CPM'S DIFFICULTIES. RAO CLAIMED THAT CPM MEMBERS HAVE BEEN QUITTING THAT PARTY IN DROVES AND COMING TO THE CPI, 400 IN ANDRA PRADESH AND 800 IN TAMIL NADU, BUT THUS FAR NONE IN WEST BENGAL. RAO SAID THE CPM IS FAST LOSING POLITICAL INFLUENCE AMONG AGRICULTURAL WORKERS AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NEW DE 12436 160300Z

RURAL POOR BECAUSE OF ITS OPPOSITION TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S ECONOMIC PROGRAM.

KORN

UNQUOTE

SAXBE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, POLITICAL PARTIES, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ellisoob
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NEWDE12436
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750320-0028
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750950/aaaabrpn.tel
Line Count: 113
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 AUG 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TROUBLE IN THE WEST BENGAL CPI
TAGS: PINT, IN, CPI, (BISWAS, J M)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006